

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 29, with the following:

A *collection* is a grouping of objects, where the objects can be any type of “thing.” For example, as mentioned above, a folder is an object, but a folder is also an example of a collection. But a folder imposes some form of organization on the files in the folder and is thus a narrower concept than a collection, which can be unorganized. FIG. 2 shows an example of how the invention operates using the files of FIG. 1. In FIG. 2, files 115, 125, and 130 are the same; collections 205 and 210 substitute for folders 105 and 115. Rather than storing file 115 in collection 205 and creating a link from collection 210 to file 110, the file and collections are managed separately. New objects, called *contracts* and represented by contracts 215-220, establish relationships between the files and the collections. For example, contract 215 defines a relationship between collection 205 and file 115, and contract ~~225~~ 230 defines a relationship between collection 205 and file 125. These relationships are bi-directional: that is, both the collections and the file can access the contracts with which the folders and files are associated.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3, with the following:

In FIG. 5C, collection 205 is being deleted, as shown by delete event 545. Again, contract 215 checks rule table 510, and finds rule 550. To apply rule 550, contract 215 is removed from the associated contracts list of file 115. Then, contract ~~230~~ 215 itself is removed (since one of the objects related by contract 215 no longer exists).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 27, with the following:

If transaction log 605 is used to rebuild file system 335, then when file system 335 can begin to recover from the failure, file system 335 accesses transaction log 605 and determines which transactions were underway when the failure occurred. Entry 620 can be used to retry creating contract 215, completing the relationship between file 115 and collection 205. Once contract 215 is established, entry 620 can be removed from transaction log 605. If entry 620 were the only entry in transaction log 605, then file system ~~605~~ 335 would know that file system 335 is fully restored, and normal file system operations can commence.